REMARKS

Claims 20 and 23-28 remain pending in the application. Claims 20, 25 and 26 have been amended, and claims 21 and 22 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,850) in view of Ariyoshi (U.S. Patent No. 6,408,288). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

In the specification of the present application, Applicants disclose an embodiment of an information distribution system which includes, inter alia, a profile storer that stores a personal profile that includes at least one evaluation value of a keyword contained in distribution information provided from a first information distribution provider, and an information distributor that rates the distribution information provided from the first information distribution provider and rates distribution information provided from a second information distribution provider. The information distributor includes a first information filter that rates the distribution information from the first information distribution provider based on the evaluation values included in the personal profile, and a second information filter that rates the distribution information from the second information distribution provider based on the evaluation values included in the personal profile.

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The first information filter performs a learning process that changes the evaluation values of the keywords contained in the distribution information from the first information distribution provider in the personal profile, based on the distribution information and preference information of the client about the distribution information. The second information filter does not perform the learning process based on the distribution information from the second information distribution provider.

The claims generally recite the use of a first filter and a second filter. The first filter is used to create a personal profile via a learning process, rate distribution information provided from an information distribution provider based on the personal profile, and send the rated distribution information to a client. The second filter is used to rate distribution information from another information distribution provider based on the personal profile created by the first filter. The above-noted features are described below with reference to Figure A, which Applicants have created and attached herewith merely to illustrate differences between their disclosed embodiment and the applied prior art.

Figure A shows that, according to Applicants' disclosed embodiment, distribution information provided from a first provider A and distribution information provided by a second provider B are rated and sent to a client.

According to the disclosed embodiment, the first filter creates a personal profile via a learning process in advance. When necessary, the first filter modifies and updates the personal profile through additional learning processes. Consequently,

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Applicants' personal profile is not modified or updated simply by viewing information. In other words, the information filter has a learning function.

When distribution information is provided from provider A, the first filter rates this distribution information based on a personal profile in which a learning process is performed in advance, and sends the distribution information to the client.

On the other hand, the second filter simply reads the personal profile, and neither performs a learning process nor modifies or update the personal profile. That is, the second filter does not include a learning function. When distribution information is provided from provider B, the second filter rates the distribution information based on the personal profile created by the first filter and sends the distribution information to the client.

Applicants submit that at least the above differs from the art applied by the Examiner.

Klein is directed towards a method for recommending items, in which a plurality of user profiles is stored in a memory element. Klein discloses that the items to be recommended are items of any type that a user may sample in a domain, such as sound recordings, movies, restaurants, etc. See col. 3, lines 43-51. Klein also discloses that each user profile associates items with the ratings given to those items by the user. See col. 4, lines 7-8.

Applicant submits that Klein discloses a system substantially equivalent to that illustrated in attached Figure B. That is, Klein discloses creating and updating a profile

for each category, such as music, movies, restaurants, etc. When distribution is

providers from providers, the associated filter rates the distribution information based

on the profile created by the same filter and sends the distribution information to the

client.

Thus, in comparison to the second filter of Applicants' embodiment, Applicants

submit that Klein does not disclose rating distribution information from a provider based

on a personal profile created by a different filter and sending this distribution information

to the client.

Applicants respectfully submit that Klein does not disclose the combination of a

first information filter that performs a learning process that changes at least one

evaluation value of a keyword contained in distribution information from a first

information provider in a personal profile, based on the distribution information and

preference information of a client about the distribution information, and a second

information filter that rates distribution information from a second information

distribution provider based on the evaluation values registered in the personal profile,

but does not perform a learning process based on the distribution information from the

second information distribution provider, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that Klein also does not disclose the combination

of a first filter that stores a personal profile and rates distribution information based on

the personal profile, and a second filter that rates distribution information based on the

personal profile stored by the first filter.

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On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that these features are disclosed by Klein in the "Background" section, specifically col. 1, lines 36-45. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that col. 1, lines 36-45 of Klein merely discloses that in the domain of movie and sound recordings, many individuals rely on reviews written by paid reviewers. Applicants respectfully submit that this is unrelated to a second filter that rates distribution information based on evaluation values registered in a personal profile. Applicants submit that Klein fails to provide any detail as to how the critics' reviews are used in content-based filtering. Nor does Klein disclose that critics' reviews are used with a second filter.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to reasonably combine the invention disclosed in Klein's background section with Klein's claimed invention. Further, if the disclosure in Klein's background section were combined with Klein's claimed invention in the manner suggested by the Examiner, Applicants submit that such a combination would only replace the personal profile shown in Figure B, and would still bear no relationship to the system of Applicants, shown in Figure A, in which the second filter rates the distribution information based on the personal profile created by the first filter.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ariyoshi fails to overcome the deficiencies of Klein. Ariyoshi is directed towards an information filtering method and device. Ariyoshi discloses a content based filtering (CBF) system which includes a profile learning

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section 22 that learns a subject user profile, based on ratings of information items performed by a subject user in the past, and a relevance estimating section 23 that estimates a relevance to the subject user of information items based on the subject user profile learned by the user profile learning section 22. See col. 4, lines 51-58, and col. 5, lines 1-10.

Applicants submit that Ariyoshi's CBF system does not include the combination of a first filter that rates information items from a first information distribution provider based on evaluation values of keywords included in the subject user profile and performs a learning process that changes the evaluation values in the personal profile, and a second filter that rates information items from a second information distribution provider based on evaluation values of keywords included in the subject user profile but does not perform a learning process on the personal profile, as is taught by Applicants' claimed invention.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Klein and Ariyoshi, asserted by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest an information distribution system which includes an information distributor which includes a first information filter that rates distribution information from a first information distribution provider based on at least one evaluation value included in a personal profile and performs a learning process that changes the evaluation values in the personal profile, and a second information filter that rates distribution information from a second information distribution provider based on the evaluation values included in the personal profile,

where the second information filter does not perform a learning process based on the distribution information from the second information distribution provider, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Klein and Ariyoshi also fails to disclose or suggest an information distribution apparatus which includes a first information filter that stores a personal profile in which at least one evaluation value of a keyword is learned in advance based on preference information, and rates distribution information from a first information distribution provider based on the personal profile, and a second information filter that rates distribution information provided from a second information distribution provider based on the personal profile, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 25.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Klein and Ariyoshi also fails to disclose or suggest an information distribution method which includes at least storing a personal profile at a first information filter, in which at least one evaluation value of a keyword is learned in advance based on preference information, having the first information filter rate distribution information provided from a first information distribution provider based on the personal profile, and having a second information filter rate distribution information from a second information distribution provider based on the personal profile, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 26.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 20 and 25 are not taught by the combination of Klein and Ariyoshi set forth by

the Examiner, and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections, and allowance of these claims.

Dependent claims 23, 24, 27 and 28 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 20 and 26.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.
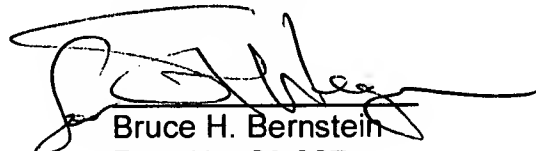
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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Attached drawing sheet including Figures A & B

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